



NEWS RELEASE

Joseph E. Kernan, Governor
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Kernan announces training assistance for Fairfield Manufacturing Co. Inc.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – As the company gears up for future growth, Gov. Joe Kernan today awarded Lafayette's Fairfield Manufacturing two workforce development grants.

Fairfield Manufacturing, the largest independent gear manufacturer in the United States, has been awarded a total of \$30,544 through the Indiana Department of Workforce Development's Indiana@Work and Incumbent Worker Training programs to upgrade the skills new and existing workers.

"Fairfield Manufacturing plays a big role in Tippecanoe County's economy and we are proud to support their continuing growth," said Kernan. "By investing in human capital, through training, the company will become more productive, the workers will gain skills that make them more marketable and the community will become more competitive because it offers a stronger workforce."

The company requested \$4,430 from the Indiana@Work program to profile its production associate position and assess the skills of up to 100 job applicants. Fairfield also was awarded a \$26,114 Incumbent Worker Training grant. The grant funding, along with a company match of \$85,156, will provide apprenticeship journeymen training for 14 employees through courses offered by Ivy Tech State College.

Founded in 1919, Fairfield Manufacturing Co. employs 780 individuals and boasts annual sales of more than \$127 million. The company has more than 80 years of engineering and manufacturing expertise in the production of gears for various industries. Training will allow current employees to fill positions left vacant in the future by retirees.

Indiana@Work, a joint effort between the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and the Indiana Department of Commerce, builds around Energize Indiana's four targeted sectors: advanced manufacturing, information technology, life sciences and high-tech distribution. Available through the state's WorkOne and WorkOne Express Centers, Indiana@Work has made skills assessments available to nearly 20,000 Hoosiers and companies statewide have requested more than 400 job profiles since its inception in January.

The centerpiece of Indiana@Work is WorkKeys®, a comprehensive system developed by ACT® that determines and categorizes the skills necessary for a specific job. It also matches the individual's skill level to particular job requirements and serves as a foundation for training programs that close skill gaps and develop a more capable workforce.

Job profiling, the employer segment of WorkKeys® helps businesses identify the skills and skill levels needed for workers to be successful on the job. Professional job analysts work with

experienced employees to define the duties of each occupation and together, they create specific job profiles.

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The Incumbent Worker Training grant program was designed to create a world-class workforce in Indiana, through continuous improvement to the skill levels of Hoosier workers. All Indiana businesses are eligible to apply for this grant opportunity.

Through its various programs and initiatives, DWD is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures, and operates a statewide job placement service.

For more information on this or other DWD programs, contact Jeff Harris at 317/232-3396 or visit the web site at www.workforce.IN.gov.

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